MEDICAL COLLEGE

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS)
Admission Information 2021 - 2022
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THE UNIVERSITY

The Aga Khan University is a pioneering institution of higher education and research that works to improve quality of life in the developing world and beyond. We educate leaders, generate life-saving knowledge and set an example that raises standards in the societies in which we work. We empower women and the disadvantaged, strengthen pluralism and partner with world-renowned institutions to address problems that affect millions of people.

A not-for-profit institution, AKU was founded in 1983 by His Highness the Aga Khan. As Pakistan’s first private university, we paved the way for the growth of the country’s private higher education sector. In the early 2000s, the University expanded to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom.

At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces diversity, demands excellence and encourages leadership and direct engagement with real-world challenges. Our graduates go on to study and work at eminent universities and organizations around the world, and to make a difference in their home countries.

AKU is open to all, regardless of race, religion, gender or geographic origin. Two-thirds of students and half of faculty members are women. Admission is based on merit, and our needs sensitive financial assistance programme ensures that individuals from lower-income backgrounds are able to attend.
**ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL COLLEGE**

Under its charter, AKU is open to all academically qualified candidates without consideration to gender, religion, race, creed, colour or domicile. Students from anywhere in Pakistan and overseas may apply. There are no quotas, reserved seats or admissions against donations. Merit-based admissions are open to candidates from around the world.

Admission to all University programmes is based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an AKU Admission Test and interviews, productive use of time and other experiences indicating potential for leadership.

Fulfilment of basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline or any other outstanding achievement alone is not sufficient for selection. Candidates and their parents or supporters who expect their candidature to be strong enough to warrant selection are advised that the outcome of the selection process cannot be anticipated at any stage. Experience over the years has shown that competition for admission is intense. Candidates are advised in their own interest to apply to other institutions as well.

Every effort is made to select students from diverse economic and educational backgrounds. This is done in the belief that diversity in the student body greatly enriches the educational experience.

As English is the medium of instruction at AKU, candidates must be able to demonstrate competence in English comprehension and expression, both written and verbal.

It is in the best interest of students, particularly from overseas, to have a good working knowledge of Urdu. The University would also make necessary arrangements for acculturation and strengthening of language skills through coaching, where possible.

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC / graduate / postgraduate education in the year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure and meet the eligibility criteria as indicated in this brochure may apply.

**PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS**

The Aga Khan University will accept applications for the MBBS programme from candidates who will be writing their final year examinations in Summer of 2021. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, candidates will be required to submit their pending HSSC examination or their graduation/postgraduate examination results in accordance with the minimum eligibility requirements by the dates specified in this brochure. The University does not process applications that do not meet eligibility requirements or are submitted, for any reason, after the deadline.

*It is candidate’s responsibility to ensure that the pending results are received in the admission office according to the published schedule.*
**Repeat Applications**

Candidates to the MBBS programme, not successful in their first attempt may reapply for admission with additional information supporting their application. Candidate’s most current academic qualification will be used for evaluation purposes.

The University does not carry forward applications from one year to the next. Thus, a fresh application together with necessary documentation, must be submitted for any subsequent admission session.

Candidates are allowed a maximum of three attempts to be admitted to the MBBS programme. Following three unsuccessful applications, candidates are ineligible to apply for the MBBS programme and are encouraged to apply for other University programmes, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

**The Medical College**

The Medical College, established in 1983, offers programmes that maintain high quality and flexibility which allows students to develop broadly and function effectively. The University attaches great emphasis to the professional, personal and intellectual development of students, so that its graduates become contributory members and leaders of society.

The programmes are designed to equip students with appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and behaviour necessary to understand and influence factors that affect the health of individuals and communities. The curricular objective of the Medical College also includes clinical competence in community settings and hospitals, as well as assessment of health and prevention of disease in communities through primary health care programmes monitored by AKU in a number of urban settlements. Agreements with leading academic institutions, such as the University of Washington, the University of California, San Francisco, University of Alabama and Johns Hopkins in the United States and the universities of Alberta, Calgary, British Columbia and Waterloo in Canada and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the UK, and NOVA University in Portugal have contributed to faculty and curriculum development, student mobility and research affiliations in various fields. These partnerships have enabled advanced training and research, specifically in areas where such opportunities are not available in Pakistan.
BACHELOR OF MEDICINE, BACHELOR OF SURGERY (MBBS)

The five-year MBBS programme emphasises on problem-based learning (PBL) and early clinical contact, with a gradual shift in focus to patient-based learning using best evidence practice in later years. The curriculum also incorporates current evidence-based medical education concepts and uses multiple modes of learning. Electives in a wide variety of subjects each year increase opportunities for broader intellectual development. Students will have opportunities to work in clinical teams at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), as well as in the national and community-oriented health services operating in urban and rural populations.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

| Stage I | • Submitting an application according to the eligibility requirements of AKU.  
• Writing the AKU Test or submitting its equivalent as explained in this brochure. Please refer to relevant section in this brochure. |
|Stage II | • **Interviews**: Shortlisting of candidates is based on the applicable Test or its equivalent. The number of candidates interviewed is limited. **Candidates will be required to attend two independent interviews.**  
• **Shortlisted candidates will be required to submit following:**  
  i. **Application Form II**: An opportunity to present your academic achievements, Extra-curricular’s, other interests and achievements.  
  ii. **Two Reference Letters**: References from teachers to be filled on University’s prescribed format.  
  iii. **Submission of valid MDCAT Test results** as mandated by PMC. Please review PMC website for details: [www.pmc.gov.pk](http://www.pmc.gov.pk) Test results should be submitted as soon as candidates receive their result. |

**Final Selection**: Shortlisted candidates are rank ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements, interview evaluations and other attributes assessed through documents provided.
**REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY**

The Medical College has no preference for any particular type of preparation and qualification. Candidates prepared in Urdu or English-medium institutions, in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC/graduate/postgraduate education in 2021 and meet the eligibility criteria may apply. Candidates must present qualifications that are appropriate to the system of education in which they have been prepared. The University will evaluate applications on the basis of the candidate’s achievements in the most current academic qualification.

Candidates from Pakistan and overseas who have pursued diverse curricula and present different qualifications are evaluated in comparison with others presenting the same or similar qualifications. During evaluation, no attempt is made to relate achievements in diverse educational systems to a numerical equivalent of the qualification in Pakistan.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- In addition to meeting minimum academic eligibility requirements and successfully completing the University’s admission processes as stated in this brochure for AKU, all candidates (in Pakistan and overseas) must meet the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) requirements and regulations applicable at the time of admission to medical colleges in Pakistan. Currently this includes submission of MDCAT test scores. This test is administered by PMC. *Candidates are encouraged to review the PMC website for details and updates: [www.pmc.gov.pk](http://www.pmc.gov.pk)*

- SAT II or International MCAT scores will not be accepted as a substitute of MDCAT to fulfil the PMC requirements.
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The minimum academic requirements following different systems of education, to be eligible to apply, are outlined here. For further clarification, candidates are requested to write to mbbs.query@aku.edu

Pakistani System of Education
Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) in pre-medical group with a minimum aggregate of 70%.

O-Level and Pakistani HSSC System of Education
- Satisfactorily completed Ordinary Level (O-Level) with at least six subjects including English, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) in pre-medical group with a minimum aggregate of 70%.

British or Equivalent Advanced Level Certificates of Education
- Satisfactorily completed Ordinary Level (O-Level) with at least six subjects including English, biology, chemistry and physics.
- Advanced Level (A-Level) with at least a “B grade” in biology, chemistry and physics. Candidates studying or applying from overseas may also apply with mathematics in lieu of physics.

The SAT II, Advance Placements, IBCC equivalence or conversion of grades into percentage will not be acceptable as a substitute for the Advanced Level grades. Advanced Subsidiary Level grades are not acceptable in lieu of Advanced Level grade.

American and Canadian High School Diploma
High School (Grade 9-12) with a minimum CGPA of 3.25 (on a 4-point scale); or 85% overall average; or an average ‘B’ grade as assessed by the home institution.

Candidates must have studied biology, chemistry and physics at High School level (from grade 9 through 12). Candidates studying or applying from overseas have an option to apply with mathematics in lieu of physics.

International Baccalaureate Diploma
Completed the International Baccalaureate (IB) with a minimum overall achievement of 32 points. Candidates should have studied biology and chemistry; and physics or mathematics at either the higher or the standard/subsidiary level.

Indigenous Higher Secondary School Certificates of Education
Candidates having studied in systems of education not mentioned in the earlier sections will be considered only if they provide evidence of satisfactory completion of a Higher Secondary School Certificate of education/equivalent with at least 70% achievement or equivalent. Equivalence from the IBCC stating that the qualifications are equivalent to the High School qualifications in Pakistan will be required.
Candidates should have studied biology, chemistry; and physics/mathematics in their Higher Secondary School Certificate/equivalent.
Undergraduates, Graduates and Postgraduates
Cumulative grade “B” or a minimum CGPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale or have achieved at least 70% marks or equivalent as assessed by their home institution in their degree examination may apply. Candidates who are in the process of completing their degree in Summer of 2021 may also apply, provided the final examination results/transcripts are available by the AKU submission deadlines.

In addition, all eligible candidates must have at least 70% or equivalent in their Higher Secondary School Certificate examination. It will be necessary for candidates in Pakistan and those following Pakistani system of education overseas to have read biology, chemistry and physics as mandatory subjects at the Higher Secondary School level. Candidates who have completed High School overseas may apply with mathematics in lieu of physics. Please review PMC requirements for details.

For candidates who have completed or are in the process of completing two years of any undergraduate programme will be assessed on the basis of their High School achievement. These must be according to the eligibility requirements provided in this brochure for the system of education followed.

OBTAINING AN EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE
Candidates following systems of education other than Pakistani Higher Secondary Certificate [pre-medical group] must obtain an equivalence certificate from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). AKU will only confirm admission upon receipt of the IBCC equivalence and other requirements of admission as indicated in the offer letter.

- Candidates studying / applying with pre-medical subjects (biology, chemistry and physics) from Pakistan and overseas:
  This equivalence certificate must state that their High School qualification is equivalent to the HSSC pre-medical qualification in Pakistan with a minimum aggregate achievement of 70%.

- Candidates from overseas who have written mathematics in lieu of physics:
  The equivalence certificate should verify that the candidate’s High School qualification is equivalent to a High School qualification in Pakistan with a minimum aggregate achievement of 70%.

For more details and updates please visit website: www.ibcc.edu.pk or visit IBCC offices located in Karachi and Islamabad:

Islamabad: Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106631. Email: ibcc_islamabad@ibcc.edu.pk

Karachi: Sindh Board of Technical Education, ST-22, Block 6, Main University Road, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Near NIPA Chowrangi, Karachi, Sindh. Tel +92 21 99244121. Email: ibcc_karachi@ibcc.edu.pk
THE AKU TEST AND ITS EQUIVALENT

Unless stated otherwise in this section, the AKU Test must be written by all candidates applying to the MBBS programme.

AKU Test Applicability:

Candidates in Pakistan and overseas, irrespective of the curriculum or system of education followed at high school / equivalent level; are required to write the AKU Test. This also includes candidates who have studied an undergraduate degree in Pakistan. Equivalent Tests will not be acceptable.

Candidates with an Undergraduate Degree or a Higher Qualification from Overseas

Candidates applying with an overseas (four year) degree, irrespective of their current residence are required to submit the MCAT written through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). A minimum aggregate score of 500 is required including a score of 125 in EACH of the four components: biological and biochemical foundations of living systems; chemical and physical foundations of biological systems; psychological, social, and biological foundations of behaviour; and critical analysis and reasoning skills. For more details, please visit website: www.aamc.org

THE AKU TEST: SOME DETAILS

Test questions are based on the Higher Secondary School Certificate curriculum in Pakistan. The curriculum is available within the Undergraduate Admission page at www.aku.edu/mbbs
Candidates are advised in their own interest to go through the curriculum provided. Candidates are encouraged to review the AKU sample test paper for additional information on the format of the Test.

The AKU Test includes a section on science and mathematical reasoning and a section on science achievement comprising of questions in biology, chemistry, and physics. The questions in this multiple-choice exam are designed to test recall of factual information, application of knowledge, deduction and problem-solving ability.

The University does not provide any special preparation for its Test nor does it endorse or authorise any publication or preparatory classes for this purpose.

The University reserves the right to evaluate the applications for shortlisting purposes on the criteria developed at the time.

VALIDITY OF TEST SCORES

The international MCAT written in 2019 and thereafter will be considered for admission to the 2021-2022 academic year.

The AKU Test scores and MDCAT scores are valid for consideration only in the year in which they have been written.
**SUMMARY:** Test requirements from candidates in Pakistan and overseas following different systems of education.

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<tr>
<th>System of Education</th>
<th>Applying / Studying in Pakistan or Overseas</th>
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<td>Pakistani HSSC</td>
<td>AKU Test for shortlisting</td>
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<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>MDCAT Test for final selection and to meet PMC* requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>American / Canadian</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous High School Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undergraduate, Graduate &amp; Postgraduate</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AAMC [MCAT] for candidates with degree from Overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AKU Test for candidates with degrees from Pakistan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MDCAT Test for final selection and to meet PMC* requirements (for all).</td>
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*For updates and details on PMC requirements, please visit PMC website for details: [www.pmc.gov.pk](http://www.pmc.gov.pk)*
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between April 19, 2021 and July 28, 2021. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

In cases where applicants are unable to access the online portal, candidates may request for a paper-based application by e-mailing mbbs.query@aku.edu

Candidates completing the paper-based form are requested to follow the instructions mentioned within the form for fee payment and submission. Please courier the completed paper-based form to reach the Admission Office latest by July 28, 2021. Applications are not accepted over the counter and after the deadline.

NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in the programme brochure. Moreover, candidates applying online or through a paper-based application, are responsible to complete the application and other requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule.

Aga Khan University reserves the right to admission; to revoke admission and registration if an application is discovered to be inaccurate or incomplete, or if supporting documents are discovered to be fraudulent. Any candidate who presents a fraudulent document in support of an application for admission may be identified to other universities and colleges.

ADMIT CARD

The admit card to allow you to write the test will be received by candidates who apply online on their portal and through an email.

Candidates who submit a paper application will receive their admit card through an email.

In cases where the admit card is not received 12 days before the date of the test; candidates must email the Admission Office at mbbs.query@aku.edu for the required information and application details.

If a candidate would like to write the test at a different test centre from the one originally noted in the application form, candidate must inform the admission office via email at least 72 hours before the test so that information can be sent to the Test Centre. Walk in candidates are not encouraged. Please Note: The University does not take responsibility to conduct the test for candidates who walk into a Test Centre without information.

Please note:

To be allowed into the Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:
  ▪ A hard copy of the admit card issued by AKU AND
  ▪ A valid current photo ID card/original CNIC/college ID card/enrolment card for identification.

Without these documents, AKU reserves the right not to allow you to write the Test.
**APPLY ONLINE**
Follow the steps below to apply for an academic programme online:

- You will need an email account to apply; if you don't have one, please create

  Click on our online page [www.aku.edu/apply-online](http://www.aku.edu/apply-online)

- As a new AKU online user, click on "new user"

  An acknowledgement email will be sent to your email address. In the email, please click on "here" and verify your account. Then move forward.

- Provide personal information

- Create new application

- Select Country

- Select your programme

- Enter your qualifications

- Enter programme specific details

  - Upload proof of payment on “upload document page”

    - Enter test centre & other details
    - Upload your photo
    - Generate fee voucher or pay online

    - Upload documents according to the checklist

    - Mark [✓] on documents availability as applicable

  - Review for correctness before submission

    - Save and submit online application

    - You will receive a copy of your application on your email.

    - Office will review your application and send admit card on your email / portal.
Please Upload the following Documents when Applying Online

Note: The photograph should be in JPEG format with 2 MB size and all other documents should be in PDF format with 5 MB file each.

1. Photograph (see photograph specification section)

2. CNIC / NICOP (front & back copy) or relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)

3. Application Fee:  
   - Applying from AKU residential countries* is Rs. 7400/-
   - Applying from AKU non-residential countries is US $ 375/-
   -(see mode of payment section for details)

   The application fee is non-refundable. 
   Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.

*Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

- SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript / equivalent
- HSSC mark sheet / A-Level general certificate / High School transcript / IB transcript / equivalent
- Undergraduate / graduate transcript (for candidates applying with a degree)

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.

- Passport size coloured photograph with white background; taken within the last 1 week to reflect your current appearance.
- File size and format: 2 MB and JPEG format.
- The photo should show a clear front view; full face of the person.

If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, the University will not allow you to write the AKU Test.
MODE OF PAYMENT

Candidates may pay the application fee through any of the following modes. *When the fee is paid, please upload the receipt on the online admission portal.*

- **Fee Voucher (Pakistani Currency Only)**
  Please follow these steps to pay the application fee through fee voucher:

  1. On the application home page, please click on “Fee, photograph and other details”
  2. For payment mode, select “Fee Voucher”
  3. Click “Yes” to generate the voucher (*make sure that your popups are not blocked*)
  4. Take the printed voucher to any branch of Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) and pay the fee
  5. Upload the paid voucher on “Upload Document Page” by selecting fee payment
  6. When uploading, type fee voucher receipt # on document name field.

- **Online Payment through Debit/Credit Card (Pakistani & US$ Currency)**
  Follow these steps to pay application fee online through a debit / credit card:

  1. On the application home page, please click on “Fee, photograph and other details”
  2. For payment mode, select “Online Payment” and click yes (*make sure that your popups are not blocked*)
  3. Complete your payment details on online web portal: [https://payonline.aku.edu/](https://payonline.aku.edu/)
  4. Upload the payment acknowledgement email or screenshot on “Upload Document Page” by selecting fee payment
  5. When uploading, type online payment reference # / transaction # on document name field.

*In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing: [student.finance@aku.edu](mailto:student.finance@aku.edu)*
FEES AND FUNDING

Admissions to all the academic programmes at Aga Khan University are based on merit and are needs blind, i.e. without considering the financial background of the student.

Upon acceptance into an academic programme, a student who is unable to pay for the cost of education at the University, may apply for financial assistance.

The financial information including student’s fee-paying status, fee structure for the 2021-2022 session, and financial assistance is available on: [www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding](http://www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding)

AKU ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP (RENEWABLE)

The University will offer five full scholarships to students joining the MBBS programme. This is a merit cum needs scholarship. The eligibility criteria and other requirements are reviewed every year and decided by the University Committee for Scholarships. Applications are not required. The University’s decision is final.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide single and shared, furnished accommodation. Hostel space is only available for students who do not have residential accommodation in Karachi.

A fee is charged for all accommodation. Accommodation charges for the 2021-2022 session is available online along with the fee structure. Meals may be purchased separately from the University's cafeteria. All students living in the hostels are expected to conform to rules and regulations. Residence is conditional upon proper use and care of the property, considerate behaviour and periodic reappraisal of the student's need for such accommodation.
# Key Dates for 2021-2022 Admissions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Test Centres</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 19 – July 28, 2021</td>
<td>Admission Open Registration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>April 19 – July 28, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5</td>
<td><em><em>AKU Admission Test</em> - Pakistan</em>*</td>
<td>Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td><em><em>AKU Admission Test</em> - Overseas</em>*</td>
<td>Dubai, Iran, Kabul, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>(Additional overseas centres will be confirmed if there are at least 10 candidates to write the test)</em></td>
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*Please note: Timings and address for the venue will be stated on the admit card. In case of a change, candidates will be notified through email.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 25</td>
<td>Last date for receipt MCAT international score sheet (As applicable, please read relevant section in this brochure)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September / October</td>
<td>Shortlisting of candidates and interviews.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td><strong>Last date to submit:</strong> Attested copy of Pakistani HSSC / High School or equivalent examination results</td>
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<tr>
<td>To be communicated later</td>
<td>Submission of MDCAT results administered by the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) for admission to Pakistan medical colleges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2022</td>
<td>Submission of A levels results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon Selection</td>
<td>If Applicable, submission of IBCC equivalence certificate copy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of January 2022</td>
<td>Commencement of Classes</td>
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**DISCLAIMER**

This booklet contains information about the MBBS programme offered by the Medical College at the Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2021-2022. The information provided is subject to change and without written notice. Candidates aiming to apply for programmes in any other academic year are responsible for requesting updated information about minimum eligibility requirement, application and admission process by emailing mbbs.query@aku.edu.

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